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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPOSITION OF: MONICA V. KLADAKIS

Monday, April 14, 2008

Washington, D.C.

The deposition in the above matter was held at 2157
Rayburn House Office Building, Conference Room J, commencing
at 1:34 p.m.

1 Appearances:

2

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5 For COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM:

6

7 KRISTIN AMERLING, CHIEF COUNSEL

8 ANNA LAITIN, PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

9 STEPHEN R. CASTOR, COUNSEL

10 ASHLEY CALLEN, COUNSEL

11

12

13 For MONICA KLADAKIS:

14

15 ANDREW C. WHITE

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19 Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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1 Ms. Amerling. On behalf of the Committee on Oversight
2 and Government Reform, I thank you for being here today.

3 This proceeding is known as a deposition. The chairman
4 of the committee has sought this deposition as part of the
5 committee's investigation of lobbying contacts between Jack
6 Abramoff and his associates in the White House.

7 The person transcribing this proceeding is a House
8 reporter and Notary Public, authorized to administer oaths.
9 She will now place you under oath.

10 [Witness sworn.]

11 Ms. Amerling. My name is Kristin Amerling, and I have
12 been designated as majority counsel for this deposition.
13 There are several other members of the committee staff here.
14 Would you please identify yourselves for the record?

15 Ms. Laitin. Anna Laitin, also with the majority staff.

16 Mr. Castor. Steve Castor with the Republican staff.

17 Ms. Callen. Ashley Callen with the republican staff.

18 Ms. Amerling. Before beginning the deposition, I want
19 to go over some standards instructions and explanations.

20 Ms. Kladakis, because have you been placed under oath,
21 your testimony here has the same force and effect as if you
22 were testifying before the committee. If you knowingly
23 provide false testimony, you could be subject to criminal
24 prosecution for perjury, making false statements or other
25 related offenses. Do you understand this?

1 The Witness. Yes.

2 Ms. Amerling. Is there any reason you are unable to
3 provide truthful answers in today's proceeding?

4 The Witness. No.

5 Ms. Amerling. Under the committee's rules, you are
6 allowed to have an attorney present to advise you. For the
7 record, do you have an attorney who represents you present
8 with you today?

9 The Witness. I do.

10 Ms. Amerling. Would you please identify yourself for
11 the record?

12 Mr. White. Andrew White.

13 Ms. Amerling. Thank you.

14 Ms. Amerling. The deposition will proceed as follows, I
15 will ask questions for up to an hour regarding the subject
16 matter of the committee investigation. When I'm finished,
17 the minority counsel will have the opportunity to ask you
18 questions for up to 1 hour. And additional rounds of
19 questioning may proceed after that, alternating between the
20 majority and the minority.

21 The reporter will be taking down everything that you
22 say, and we will make a written record of the deposition.
23 You need to give verbal, audible answers, because the
24 reporter can't record nods or gestures. Do you understand
25 that?

1 A At the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

2 Q And what is your position there?

3 A I'm a managing director.

4 Q And how long have you been there?

5 A In May it will be 3 years.

6 Q And where were you employed prior to that position?

7 A I worked at the Office of Presidential Personnel at
8 the White House.

9 Q And what position did you hold there?

10 A I was a Special Assistant to the President and
11 Associate Director for Presidential Personnel.

12 Q During what period, time period, did you hold that
13 position?

14 A Two years, so approximately April 2003 to
15 April 2005.

16 Q And to whom did you report in that position?

17 A To Dina Powell, who was the Director of the Office.

18 Q And before you held that position, where did you
19 work?

20 A I was at the State Department in the Bureau For
21 Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

22 Q And what was your position there?

23 A I was Senior Coordinator For Democracy and Human
24 Rights Promotion.

25 Q And during what time period did you hold that

1 position?

2 A I started in October 2001 and left in April 2003.

3 Q And before you held that position, where were you
4 employed?

5 A I was at the Office of Presidential Personnel. I
6 was a Deputy Associate Director for Presidential Personnel,
7 and I was there from January of 2001 to October 2001.

8 Q And to whom did you report in that position?

9 A Stuart Holiday, who was the associate director.

10 Q And before you began in that position, where were
11 you employed?

12 A At the International Republican Institute, IRI.

13 Q During what time period?

14 A From November -- approximately November 1998
15 through December of 2000.

16 Q And could you describe the structure of the Office
17 of Presidential Personnel?

18 A Uh-huh. Sure, there was a -- when I was there,
19 there was a -- the Director of the Office of Presidential
20 Personnel was Dina Powell. And then there were -- I don't
21 remember exactly how many -- but five or six associate
22 directors. Each of us had a particular portfolio. In my
23 case, I was responsible for the national security portfolio.

24 Q During --

25 A My second time --

1 Q Both times?

2 A Yes, but the first time, since I was a deputy
3 associate director, I had a piece of the national security
4 portfolio. Stuart Holiday had the entire national security
5 portfolio. So when I came back, I took his job essentially.
6 So each associate director had a portfolio. Like I said, one
7 was national security. One was sort of commerce and
8 transportation and finance area. Another was education and
9 health and social areas. Another was boards and commissions,
10 Presidential boards and commissions. I'm not going to
11 remember them all, but any way, you can imagine the
12 government was divided up that way. And then each associate
13 director had one to two deputy associate directors and then
14 some sort of assistant as well.

15 Q And the associate directors reported to Dina
16 Powell?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And did she then report --

19 A To the President -- I'm not sure -- it was either
20 directly to the President or the chief of staff. I'm not
21 sure exactly, but she was an Assistant to the President so.

22 Q And could you describe your duties in the two
23 positions you held at the White House?

24 A Uh-huh, they were similar. I was responsible for
25 doing essentially job searches, identifying candidates for

1 Senate confirmed positions, interviewing candidates,
2 recruiting candidates. And then ultimately I had some
3 involvement in a little bit of background checking, but that
4 wasn't entirely in our portfolio, and then recommending them
5 to the President.

6 As a deputy, I -- let me backtrack. As the associate
7 director, when I was responsible for the whole portfolio, I
8 actually was in meetings with the President making the
9 recommendations. As a deputy, that happened rarely when my
10 boss was not able to do it.

11 Q And when you were an associate, you had -- you
12 supervised several deputies as well as --

13 A I had two -- yes, I had two deputies and one
14 assistant.

15 Q During your time when you were at the White House,
16 did you ever have any contact with Jack Abramoff?

17 A No.

18 Q Did you ever have any contact with Kevin Ring?

19 A Kevin Ring? Not that I recall, no. I haven't
20 heard that name in a long time.

21 Mr. White. For the record, how do you spell that?

22 Ms. Amerling. R-I-N-G, Ring.

23 BY MS. AMERLING:

24 Q Do you know Kevin Ring?

25 A Vaguely, he worked for -- did he work for

1 Congressman Doolittle?

2 Q I believe for a time, and he was one of Jack
3 Abramoff's associates.

4 A I worked on the Hill for about 7 and a half years
5 before IRI, so I remember him from my Hill days.

6 Q Where did you work on the Hill?

7 A For Tom DeLay.

8 Q Do you know Tony Rudy?

9 A Yes.

10 Q How do you know Tony Rudy?

11 A When I worked for Mr. DeLay, he was the press
12 secretary.

13 Q Is that when you first met him?

14 A Yes.

15 Q When you worked for Mr. DeLay?

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q Can you describe your relationship with Mr. Rudy
18 during the time when you were at the White House?

19 A I didn't see him when I was at the White House.
20 I'm trying to remember. He may have -- I think he worked at
21 Greenberg Traurig at one point in my first tour at the White
22 House. I think it was him that sent me some information
23 related to a position at the Interior Department or
24 something. I really don't remember. It was something that I
25 didn't follow up on, and it wasn't important, but I hadn't --

1 I didn't see him during that time. He may have been at a
2 party I went to one time, like a New Year's party.

3 Q Do you know Neil Volz?

4 A No.

5 Q I'm going to read you a list of names of other
6 people who were on Mr. Abramoff's lobbying team --

7 A Okay.

8 Q -- and ask the same question --

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q -- for each of these individuals, which is, did you
11 ever have contact with them when you were at the White House?

12 A Okay.

13 Mr. White. Professional contact or any contact?

14 Ms. Amerling. Any contact, and then we can discuss it
15 further if she has had contact.

16 BY MS. AMERLING:

17 Q Todd Boulanger?

18 A No.

19 Q Shawn Vasell?

20 A No.

21 Q Duane Gibson?

22 A No.

23 Q Michael Williams?

24 A No.

25 Q Stephanie Leger Short?

1 A No.

2 Q And Padgett Wilson?

3 A No.

4 Q Do you know who Alan Stayman is?

5 A No.

6 Q I'm going to show you two e-mail exchanges. The
7 first is an e-mail exchange dated May 9th, 2001, which we'll
8 mark as Exhibit 1. And the second is an e-mail exchange
9 dated June 11th, which we'll mark as Exhibit 2.

10 [Kladakis Exhibits No. 1 and 2
11 was marked for identification.]

12 BY MS. AMERLING:

13 Q Please take the time you need to review those.

14 A Uh-huh. Okay, yeah, there was a position from
15 this. It sounds like it was at the State Department. No,
16 maybe not. It wasn't the State Department. It was Interior.

17 Q If you've had a chance to look at these when we go
18 through them individually, I have a couple of questions on
19 each of them.

20 A Okay. They are two separate things, yeah.

21 Q In the first exchange I showed you, dated May 9th,
22 you say, "I have not forgotten about your concern about Alan
23 Stayman."

24 A Uh-huh, uh-huh.

25 Q And Mr. Rudy responds, "More evidence of your

1 greatness! Thanks."

2 A Huh-uh.

3 Q Do you recall when Tony Rudy approached you
4 regarding Mr. Stayman?

5 A Well, it was like I -- it was somewhere around this
6 time. Like I said, I do remember him contacting me in that
7 first --

8 Mr. White. When you say "him," you mean Tony Rudy?

9 The Witness. Tony Rudy. Right?

10 Ms. Amerling. Yeah.

11 The Witness. And there was this position at the
12 Interior Department, is what I recall, that had to do with
13 overseeing I think it was the islands, the Pacific Islands,
14 the Marianas Islands. I'm not sure exactly, but there was a
15 position. There was a person there who was holding over,
16 which means -- do you know what that means?

17 Q What do you mean by that?

18 A Had been there in a previous administration and was
19 still there. And apparently he contacted me to say this
20 person is not -- is someone that, I don't know if he or a
21 client, had concerns about staying in that position and at
22 what point would he be moving on so that the Bush
23 administration would be able to make its own appointment.
24 And I remember, at the time, you know, I was worried about
25 Senate-confirmed positions, about assistant secretaries and

1 higher, under secretaries, and this was not either of those.
2 And so I didn't -- anyway, like I said here is that we were
3 looking at the top provisions before focusing on other less
4 serious issues.

5 Q Do you remember taking any actions on Mr. Stayman
6 after Mr. Rudy contacted you?

7 A I'm trying to remember. There was a woman that
8 worked in -- in I think it was in the White House Liaison's
9 Office at the State Department who was interested in the
10 position because she was from Guam, and she thought she would
11 be perfect for that position. And I remember kind of talking
12 with her about it. She didn't get it if I remember
13 correctly. I don't think she ever got it. I don't remember
14 doing anything -- no, I don't remember doing anything with
15 that position.

16 Q Let me show you a couple of other e-mails that may
17 or may not refresh your recollection.

18 A Okay.

19 [Kladakis Exhibit No. 3
20 was marked for identification.]

21 BY MS. AMERLING:

22 Q This is an e-mail exchange dated June 18th, 2001,
23 which we'll mark as Exhibit 3. Please let me know when
24 you've had a chance to review it.

25 A Okay.

1 Q This is an e-mail exchange between you and Matt
2 Schlapp.

3 A Uh-huh.

4 Q In this exchange, Mr. Schlapp forwards you an
5 e-mail from Tony Rudy that asks him for assistance with
6 Mr. Stayman.

7 A Right.

8 Q Mr. Schlapp asks you, "how do we fix this?"

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q And you tell him you started looking into this and
11 you don't want a firing scandal.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q And later in the day you follow up with Mr. Schlapp
14 and tell him, "it looks good."

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q What did you believe Mr. Schlapp to mean when he
17 said, "how do we fix this?"

18 A Um, how do we get him out of the position?

19 Q And do you -- do you know what you did to follow up
20 on Mr. Schlapp's e-mail?

21 A Well, it sounds like I contacted Doug Fehrer, who
22 worked for the Office of Presidential -- OPM, Personnel
23 Management, at the time.

24 Q What did he do there?

25 A I don't know what his exact position was, but he

1 was in a career position I believe. He wasn't -- well, I
2 don't remember. Honestly, I don't remember. He was known to
3 us as a friendly person at OPM, someone we could call to help
4 us understand the ins and outs. We were all new in the
5 administration in terms of personnel, and he had been in the
6 personnel world for a long time, so he could tell us what the
7 rules were, what the options were in terms of dealing with
8 personnel matters, be it civil service, be it political, be
9 it term appointments. There are all these different
10 categories, and he was one who we would call to get advice
11 and information on how -- what is appropriate, what is not
12 appropriate, what is an option, what is not an option,
13 personnel-wise.

14 Q In the e-mail, you tell Mr. Schlapp, "it looks
15 good."

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q Do you recall what you meant by that?

18 A I really don't remember this at all. This is
19 reminding me, obviously, seeing the e-mails, but I don't
20 remember what was the next step. I mean, if I said, "it
21 looks good," probably -- it could have meant any number of
22 things. It could have meant his term is ending, and it mean
23 he's automatically gone. It could have meant his term is
24 ending, and we can ask him to leave, you know, without a
25 problem. Those are what I would view as looking good, would

1 mean that we could have him leave without it requiring us to
2 fire him. That would be my interpretation, but I don't
3 remember what it was.

4 Q And did Mr. Schlapp ask you to do this at the
5 direction of anyone else, or was he acting on his own
6 authority? Do you have knowledge of that?

7 A I don't, no. He -- he was my -- he was my
8 counterpart in the Office of Political Affairs. So I don't
9 know what his motivation was.

10 Q Let me show you another e-mail dated June 20th,
11 2001. We'll mark this as Exhibit 4.

12 [Kladakis Exhibit No. 4
13 was marked for identification.]

14 The Witness. Okay, yeah, so that makes sense.

15 BY MS. AMERLING:

16 Q In this e-mail, you write to Matt Schlapp on June
17 20th, and you tell him, "good news," that Stayman was out.

18 A Uh-huh, uh-huh.

19 Q Do you recall how you learned that Mr. Stayman was
20 out?

21 A No. How I knew?

22 Q Yes.

23 A Let me think. No. Probably -- I mean, can I
24 speculate as to the process? Typically, we probably -- I
25 would have either learned from -- I don't know if Doug Fehrer

1 would have been the source, or -- you know, records. I mean,
2 there are records and there are statutes that indicate when
3 -- if a position is a term position that -- or if -- if a
4 person holds over until a new person is appointed, or if it
5 simply ends and they leave. And so we would have found that
6 out either from OPM or from the State Department perhaps, or
7 from -- the Office of Presidential Personnel has records as
8 well. And so, I presume we learned from one of those sources
9 that his term was ending. I would have most likely gone to
10 my boss and briefed him. I probably briefed him about this
11 earlier about the situation and --

12 Q Meaning Stuart Holiday?

13 A Yes and gotten his consent, you know, agreement to
14 not renew his term. And then -- and the fact that State was
15 going to inform him that his term was not going to be
16 extended indicates that it most likely was not a Presidential
17 appointment. It may have been a secretarial appointment
18 even, because typically, if a position was a political
19 Presidential appointment, then the White House would inform
20 the person. So I'm guessing it may have been a secretarial
21 appointment. And so our White House -- our Liaison's Office
22 there may have informed him or the chief of staff could have.

23 Q If you could talk a little bit about the process
24 more generally, I think that would be helpful.

25 A Uh-huh, uh-huh.

1 Q If -- let's take a position known as a limited
2 term --

3 A Uh-huh.

4 Q -- SES. Can you walk through what role the Office
5 of Presidential Personnel at the White House would play in a
6 personnel decision related to that type of position?

7 A It depends on whether it is a political position or
8 not, political appointment or not.

9 Q And can you explain that distinction in how the
10 process would go?

11 A Sure. If it were a political appointment, then we
12 would come up with a list of candidates. We would interview
13 them. There would be background -- when I say "background
14 check," I don't want to say the official FBI -- it is more of
15 a sort of research done on what comes up on Google. Have
16 they written anything? Have they published anything? And so
17 we do a little bit of that, interview, come up with a small
18 list of candidates, bring them in for interviews. When I was
19 a deputy associate director, I dealt with that level as well
20 as the Presidential -- the Senate-confirmed positions, the
21 PAS's. When I was associate director I mostly just dealt
22 with the Senate confirmed, I didn't really deal with the
23 SES's. The non-Senate-confirmed that was -- my deputies did
24 that. But anyway, so they would come in for interviews and
25 then we would -- they would go through an interview process

1 within the White House depending on what the position was.
2 I'm just trying remember now. They'd be interviewed at the
3 White House, and then they'd be also interviewed at the
4 Department by the White House Liaison's Office, and by the --
5 I think typically we'd have the assistant secretary, or
6 whoever was going to be supervising them, would interview
7 them as well. So there would a process, and if everyone
8 agreed, then we'd offer them the position, away from the
9 White House we'd try to do that.

10 If it were not a political position, then we really --
11 we didn't have -- I'm trying to remember. This was so long
12 ago. We didn't have as much involvement. It would be easier
13 if I had an example of a limited term SES, because there
14 weren't that many of them. I mean, either you were a SES,
15 which was typically a deputy assistant secretary position,
16 but limited terms, I don't think there were that many of
17 them. So I don't --

18 Q And when you're distinguishing between political
19 and not political, you are talking career as nonpolitical?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And political as the other SES, which would include
22 limited term SES or could include?

23 A Yes, could include, yes. I don't think limited
24 term, I mean that just means it's for a specific period of
25 time, so that in and of itself doesn't necessarily mean

1 political or career, I don't think. I don't remember. I
2 don't think there -- as I say, I can't even -- I can't think
3 of a limited term SES that was a political position. I don't
4 -- but there may have been. I just don't -- I don't remember
5 dealing with them very frequently.

6 Q And if there were an individual who -- appointing
7 official at an agency --

8 A Uh-huh.

9 Q -- or assistant secretary had approved for a
10 position --

11 A Uh-huh.

12 Q -- and OPM had approved --

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q -- that position, and they had gone through ERB
15 process, the Executive Resources Board process --

16 A I am not familiar.

17 Q You're not familiar with that process?

18 A Huh-uh.

19 Q Ok, if there were a candidate who had been approved
20 for a position by the assistant secretary and --

21 A Is this a political candidate or career?

22 Q If it were a political candidate and OPM had
23 approved --

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q -- would the Office of Presidential Personnel have

1 authority to stop that person from being hired?

2 A If it's a political appointment, yes.

3 Q Who in the Office of Presidential Personnel had the
4 authority to authorize taking such an action to stop -- to
5 stop such a personnel action from going forward? Would you
6 in your position, your first position there --

7 A No.

8 Q -- have had the authority to do that?
9 Would Mr. Holiday?

10 A He may have. I don't -- you know, he may have. I
11 presume he would have talked to the director, who was Clay
12 Johnson at the time. I'm not sure.

13 Q Clay Johnson preceded Dina Powell?

14 A Right, uh-huh.

15 Q I see. You're not certain who had ultimate
16 authority to make that kind of decision --

17 A Huh-uh.

18 Q -- within the Office of Presidential Personnel?

19 A No.

20 Q With respect to Mr. Stayman's case specifically --

21 A Uh-huh.

22 Q -- do you remember anything about how the decision
23 got communicated to the State Department that he would not be
24 in that position anymore?

25 A Most likely either I or Stuart Holiday would have

1 called over there.

2 Q In the e-mail that's in front of us --

3 Mr. White. Exhibit 4?

4 Ms. Amerling. This is Exhibit 4.

5 BY MS. AMERLING:

6 Q You tell Mr. Schlapp, "I'll call Tony."

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q Why would you have singled out Tony to -- as
9 somebody you would report back to?

10 A Because, if I remember correctly, he's the one who
11 first brought the situation to my attention, and Matt asked
12 me to.

13 Q Let me show you another e-mail a few days after the
14 date of the e-mail you were just discussing.

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q This one is dated June 29th, 2001. Let's mark this
17 as Exhibit 5.

18 [Kladakis Exhibit No. 5

19 was marked for identification.]

20 BY MS. AMERLING:

21 Q Let me know when you've had a chance to look at it.

22 A Okay, it's all coming back as long as I read my
23 e-mails.

24 Q Great. So this e-mail exchange is June 29th, 2001.
25 It is between you and Susan Ralston?

1 A Uh-huh.

2 Q And in this exchange you report to Ms. Ralston on a
3 conversation that you had with Ambassador James Kelly.

4 A Right.

5 Q And how he wanted Mr. Stayman for another 6 months?

6 A To stay, yep.

7 Q In this e-mail, you tell Ms. Ralston, "Matt and I
8 will talk Monday and figure out what else to do."

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q Does this -- does this e-mail refresh your
11 recollection about conversations --

12 A Yeah.

13 Q -- that you might have had with Ambassador Kelly?

14 A Well, yeah, yes, I remember talking to him. And he
15 was very upset at the idea of us having Stayman leave,
16 because there would be -- it takes a while to find a
17 replacement and clear them through, you know, get security
18 clearance, and he was -- very strongly did not want us to ask
19 him to leave after his term ended. So, yes, I guess -- yeah,
20 I remember this now, and so, yeah, we were caught between our
21 assistant secretary and congressional Republicans, but, yeah,
22 we agreed to let him stay.

23 Q And what do you recall doing after talking with
24 Ambassador Kelly? After he expressed his concern, what
25 actions did you take?

1 A I don't remember, I'm sorry. I don't remember
2 this -- as I'm reading it, it's coming back, but this is one
3 of a bazillion situations we dealt with every day. I'm sure
4 after talking to him, this posed a problem --

5 Mr. White. When you're saying "him," who --

6 The Witness. Kelly, Jim Kelly -- posed a problem to
7 what seemed to have been a good solution, which was to have
8 Stayman leave at the end of his term, so I probably spoke to
9 Stuart Holiday to let him know that the assistant secretary
10 objected to our asking Stayman to leave at the end of his
11 term. But this e-mail seems to be after -- I mean, I
12 probably had that conversation, spoke with Stuart. I don't
13 remember if there were others involved in the discussion, but
14 it seems we decided, you know, we obviously agreed to let him
15 stay for another 4 months.

16 BY MS. AMERLING:

17 Q Do you remember how many times you spoke with
18 Ambassador Kelly?

19 A I don't. It may have been more than once if I
20 called him back to let him know that we would -- I mean, I
21 probably talked to him a couple of times; the first time
22 and then to let him know what our decision was.

23 Q Do you remember anything else about any
24 conversations you had with anybody at the White House or
25 outside the White House about Mr. Stayman?

1 A I don't remember -- well, let me think about this.
2 I probably called Tony back to let him know. And at that
3 point, it would have been over, other than trying to find
4 someone to replace him at the end of the 4 months. I don't
5 remember anything else.

6 Q Was it common for lobbyists to be involved in
7 conversations with the Office of Presidential Personnel about
8 hiring and firing individuals?

9 A I wouldn't say common. It happened from time to
10 time.

11 Q And how often were you involved with situations
12 where an agency official was recommending personnel action,
13 OPM had also signed off on a personnel action, but the Office
14 of Presidential Personnel took the opposite position and
15 stopped that action from going forward; was that common?

16 A It was -- it was not common. Most of the time,
17 these -- these were always negotiations because when the
18 principal -- the assistant secretary always had -- usually
19 had people in mind. The White House usually had people in
20 mind. We had to get together, share people and come to an
21 agreement. Very rarely did the White House do anything on
22 either side of the spectrum, either force someone on an
23 assistant secretary or veto someone that the assistant
24 secretary wanted. So those things may have happened, but it
25 would have been very rare because it just wasn't productive

1 either way to force someone on the assistant secretary or to
2 categorically deny them someone they really wanted badly.

3 Q Besides the decision involving Mr. Stayman, were
4 you involved in any other discussions at the White House
5 concerning removing SES level officials from Federal
6 agencies?

7 A Probably.

8 Q Do you recall whether those discussions involved
9 lobbyists?

10 A I don't recall, no.

11 Q Did the White House provide you and your colleagues
12 with any guidance about accepting meals and gifts from
13 lobbyists?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Describe what you recall about that guidance?

16 A As I recall, there was a \$20 gift limit, so you
17 could receive lunch or a meal up to \$20 or go to a widely
18 attended event. I think the rules are pretty much the same
19 now.

20 Q What I meant was, can you describe what you
21 remember about how you received that guidance? Was it in
22 writing, or did you receive a briefing, or both?

23 A Probably both. I don't remember. It was standard
24 sort of ethics.

25 Q Do you recall who would have provided this

1 information to you?

2 A It was -- it was -- there was an ethics counsel.
3 Yes -- actually no. I'm trying to remember. When I was back
4 the second time, the ethics counsel, I think, came to my
5 office and brought -- gave me the personal briefing and gave
6 me all the written materials. The first time around, it
7 wasn't personal one on one, but I don't remember.

8 Q Do you know if any of your colleagues accepted
9 tickets to sporting or entertainment events from lobbyists?

10 A I don't know.

11 Q Did you ever accept such tickets?

12 A Not that I recall, no.

13 Q Do you know if any of your colleagues accepted
14 meals, tickets or beverages from Jack Abramoff or any of his
15 associates?

16 A I don't know if they did or not, no.

17 Q Did you ever accept any meals or tickets from -- I
18 mean, meals or beverages from Mr. Abramoff or any of his
19 associates?

20 A Well, while I was at the White House?

21 Q Yes, while were you at the White House.

22 A Not that I recall. Certainly from Jack Abramoff.
23 I don't -- associates -- not Tony, I don't recall receiving
24 anything from him.

25 Q Are you aware of any contacts that the members of

1 the Abramoff team -- Tony Rudy, Neil Volz, Jack Abramoff or
2 the other individuals I described earlier -- had with any of
3 your colleagues at the White House while you were at the
4 White House?

5 A No.

6 Q Earlier in January 2006, Mr. Abramoff pleaded
7 guilty to a number of public corruption crimes.

8 A Uh-huh.

9 Q In the weeks or months following that plea, did
10 anyone from the White House contact you to ask you about
11 whether you had any contacts with Mr. Abramoff or his team?

12 A Not that I recall, no.

13 [Discussion off the record.]

14 BY MS. AMERLING:

15 Q In the early part of this deposition, you thought
16 you recalled an issue relating to the Department of the
17 Interior --

18 A Yeah.

19 Q -- that Tony Rudy might have contacted you about.

20 A Huh-uh.

21 Q Now that you've looked at these documents, you
22 think --

23 A This was it.

24 Q -- these are --

25 A I believe that the position oversaw the islands.

1 And I don't know why I thought it was at the Interior
2 Department, but it wouldn't make sense because I didn't
3 handled the Interior Department. So it must have been the
4 position at State that handled the islands.

5 Ms. Amerling. I don't have any further questions in
6 this round. Do you want to take a break before we start the
7 next round?

8 The Witness. No, I'm fine.

9 Ms. Amerling. Do you want to move over here?

10 Mr. Castor. If Penny wants me to.

11 EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. CASTOR:

13 Q How common is it that a Clinton political
14 appointment would stay on in the next administration?

15 A At the very senior levels, not common. But we
16 actually allowed a number of deputy-level appointees to stay
17 on in order to have some continuity and to not completely
18 destabilize the agency. At the Peace Corps, this happened.
19 The director left, and then the deputy director, we asked him
20 to stay on to help during the transition time so -- but
21 ultimately, we planned to replace all of them with Bush
22 appointees, so.

23 Q The islands that were at issue, do you have a
24 recollection which islands? Were they Guam, CNMI and a
25 number of others? Was it just CNMI? Do you have a

1 recollection?

2 A I thought it was a group of islands, including
3 Guam, the Marianas, maybe others.

4 Q And do you know what Mr. Stayman's role was with
5 respect to --

6 A At the time? No, I mean, he was responsible -- the
7 position, as I recall, was responsible for overseeing
8 relations with those islands, and this -- one of these
9 e-mails reminded me that there were some negotiations going
10 on at the time over -- I don't remember if it was -- I don't
11 remember if it was labor issues, trade issues --

12 Q So you don't remember whether there were labor
13 issues with respect to the application of U.S. labor law --

14 A Right.

15 Q -- to the islands?

16 Do you remember if that was an issue or not?

17 A I don't, I don't.

18 Q Do you remember if there were any particularly
19 political aspects?

20 A To the position?

21 Q To -- to the responsibility Mr. Stayman had?

22 A No, not -- not necessarily, no.

23 Q We've looked at this, the executive branch lobbying
24 and Abramoff, for a couple of years, the committee has, and
25 the committee's interest in Stayman confounded me at a

1 personal level. I just couldn't figure out what the deal
2 was, and so, just on my own, I did some research.

3 A Uh-huh.

4 Q And, you know, it turns out, the firm -- and I'm
5 saying this to see if this jogs your memory.

6 A Yes.

7 Q Abramoff's firm, the Greenberg firm, represented
8 CNMI --

9 A Right.

10 Q -- and some of those. You know, that was sort of
11 their -- they had a practice.

12 A Right.

13 Q And at the time -- and you know, again, just
14 correct me if I am wrong or if this refreshes your
15 recollection -- the islands were worried, you know, that the
16 labor standards would get tougher --

17 A Right.

18 Q -- and make it more difficult for them to compete.

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q You know, whether it was the manufacturer or
21 something, I can't specifically recall. Does that jog your
22 memory at all?

23 A Not really, because from what I remember about this
24 situation, it was -- the arguments that were being made were
25 more against him personally as someone who was not supportive

1 of this President and not supportive of Republicans and, in
2 fact, had been working actively against Republicans and that
3 that's not the type of person that should be a political
4 appointee or representing the Bush administration. And so I
5 don't remember a lot of substantive policy arguments being
6 made.

7 Q You said that the Stayman post or whatever -- I
8 think he was the compact negotiator --

9 A Okay.

10 Q -- or something to that effect. How many posts
11 like that -- you said about a zillion earlier that you worked
12 with.

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q Can you help put in context how many different
15 positions like the one we're discussing now that you would
16 have dealt with?

17 A Well, SES level were DAS, deputy assistant
18 secretary. So, at every bureau at the State Department,
19 there were a number of deputy assistant secretaries.
20 Typically maybe one or two would have been political and the
21 rest career. But then there were a number of other SES level
22 that weren't DAS's, deputy assistant secretaries, like his,
23 heads of offices. My old position when I was at the State
24 Department as senior coordinator was an SES level. As far as
25 the limit, I assumed he was a limited term. I don't know

1 how many. I guess that was kind of a small subset of all
2 SES's. So, in my portfolio, I mean, I had State. I had
3 Peace Corps. I had AID. I had TDA, a couple of other
4 agencies. And so I was dealing with too many, clearly, but I
5 had, you know, I don't know, 30 positions. You know there
6 were a lot of SES level positions.

7 Q In your time in the White House during both your
8 tours, how many different posts did you work to fill? Is
9 this hundreds? Is this thousands?

10 A Well, there are about 4,000 political appointments
11 total. My portfolio was the national security portfolio, so
12 when I was the associate director, that included State and
13 Defense. It included, like I said, AID, the Peace Corps, the
14 Trade and Development Agency. Actually, at the time, I had
15 NASA. We had the Energy Department for a while. It was a
16 weird mix. And then a bunch of boards, the OPIC board,
17 anyway I can't remember. So, at any time, you know, at the
18 beginning, obviously, all the positions were vacant or about
19 to become vacant, so ambassadorships, the State Department
20 had all that.

21 Q So are we talking thousands?

22 A No, no, no, because there were 4,000 total, so in
23 my world --

24 Q Maybe 1,000?

25 A -- oh, I don't know. I don't think there were that

1 many.

2 Q Hundreds?

3 A Yeah, probably in the hundreds, yeah.

4 Q So --

5 A Yeah, and that's -- yeah, yeah.

6 Q The e-mails that we've looked at today, the five
7 exhibits, this is all June, May/June?

8 A Right.

9 Q '01?

10 A Right.

11 Q Ok, so this is how many years ago?

12 A Seven years ago.

13 Q And this is on your front end of your --

14 A Right.

15 Q -- two White House --

16 A Right.

17 Q There's hundreds of folks that you --

18 A Yes.

19 Q -- dealt with?

20 A Right.

21 Q And probably if you add up, is it fair to say, if
22 you add up all the folks --

23 A Uh-huh.

24 Q -- that were in the running --

25 A Uh-huh.

1 Q I mean, we're dealing with thousands of people.

2 A Absolutely.

3 Q So Stayman was one --

4 A Yes.

5 Q -- of thousands of people.

6 A Right. And that's what I meant when I said
7 zillions, because there were constantly different things
8 going on every day dealing with all the different positions
9 and all the candidates and all the issues.

10 Q So there's hundreds of positions.

11 A Right.

12 Q There's thousands of people-

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q -- relating to your White House tenure, dating back
15 to '01?

16 A Right.

17 Q You know, at first, you said that you couldn't
18 remember Stayman.

19 A Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh.

20 Q You looked at the e-mails to refresh your
21 recollection.

22 A Right, right, right.

23 Q Did you have any idea today --

24 A Huh-uh.

25 Q -- when you were coming to join us here at this

1 oversight opportunity --

2 A Huh-uh.

3 Q -- that Stayman was the --

4 A No.

5 Q -- purpose of the question?

6 Did you have any idea why you were being asked to join
7 us here today?

8 A No.

9 Q I didn't either.

10 A Okay.

11 Q How common is it the folks from the Office of
12 Political Affairs would be in the conversation for one of
13 these hundreds?

14 A Yes, common.

15 Q Very common?

16 A Yeah, it was a joint -- I mean, Presidential and
17 Office of Political Affairs worked jointly.

18 Q Speaking generically, if there was a post like
19 Staymans --

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q -- where there were government relations folks that
22 had an interest? For example, Abramoff's firm had an
23 interest in his post.

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q How common is it for government relations folks,

1 the lobbyists --

2 A Uh-huh.

3 Q -- to be working the phones?

4 A Uh-huh.

5 Q And whether it is. The White House calling the
6 Hill, calling the State Department, how common was that?

7 A Like I said, I mean, it happened. It wasn't, you
8 know --

9 Q It wasn't unusual?

10 A It wasn't unusual. It wasn't something that
11 happened with every position by any means, but it happened.

12 Q And if someone in the White House received a phone
13 call from a government relations professional --

14 A Uh-huh.

15 Q -- was there any policy about not calling that
16 lobbyist back?

17 A No.

18 [2:32 p.m.]

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 RPTS MERCHANT

2 DCMN SECKMAN.

3 BY MR. CASTOR:

4 Q Was it in fact ordinary and common if someone
5 called the White House to have someone call them back?

6 A Sure, yes.

7 Q And provide them as much information as you were
8 permitted to provide them?

9 A Yes, which wasn't very much.

10 Q So, looking at some of these e-mails, you know, it
11 looks like Tony Rudy was, you know, he e-mailed Schlapp in
12 Exhibit 4, and someone had a call in to Susan Ralston. She
13 was Rove's assistant?

14 A Right.

15 Q So does any of this e-mail traffic, does it look
16 ordinary to you?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And now that your recollection has been refreshed a
19 bit about the Stayman position, does anything jump out at you
20 as being unusual?

21 A Well, it was unusual only in that this didn't
22 happen every day. I mean, this was an unusual situation that
23 there was this person who was clearly -- that a Hill, you
24 know, congressional -- congressman had issues with and that
25 we were caught between a congressman and assistant secretary.

1 That was unusual just because that didn't happen every day.
2 But the fact that there was a person who was considered --
3 you know, who was a Clinton appointee who we wanted to move
4 on, that was not unusual. And getting inquiries about
5 someone was not unusual. And, you know, the process, you
6 know, the process was certainly not unusual because, like
7 I've said earlier, every position was a negotiation. And so
8 at the end of the day, we had to try to find an accommodation
9 as best we could to meet the needs of both the White House
10 and the Department, in this case State.

11 Mr. Castor. That's all my questions for now.

12 Ms. Amerling. I don't have further questions. Thanks
13 again for your time.

14 [Whereupon, at 2:35 p.m., the deposition was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

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I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

ERRATA SHEET
FOR DEPOSITION OF MONICA KLADAKIS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>CORRECTION</u>
3	19	Change "standards" to "standard." Change noted by Committee staff.
5	22	Change "fall" to "full." Change noted by Committee staff.
12	4, 22	Change "Alan" to "Allen." Change noted by Committee staff.
20	7	Add "be" after "would." Change noted by Committee staff.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:rudy@gtlaw.com (rudy@gtlaw.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-MAY-2001 09:36:57.00

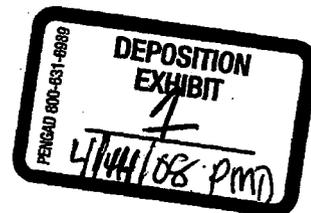
SUBJECT:: Re:

TO:Monica V. Kladakis (CN=Monica V. Kladakis/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

More evidence of your greatness! Thanks

Tony Rudy



-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] Kladakis@who.eop.gov [REDACTED] Kladakis@who.eop.gov

To: rudy@gtlaw.com <rudy@gtlaw.com>

Sent: Wed May 09 09:27:45 2001

Subject: Re:

Hi, Tony - I'd be happy to, but it might be helpful to know what the issue is first to make sure I'm the right person for him to be talking to. I'm happy to call him or he can reach me at 456-

By the way, I have not forgotten about your concern about Alan Stayman -- we just have had to work on filling our top positions before focusing on the possibly problematic people.

I'm doing great - hope all is well with you -- Monica

(Embedded

image moved rudy@gtlaw.com

to file: 05/09/2001 09:03:34 AM

PIC17276.PCX)

Record Type: Record

To: Monica V. Kladakis/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject:

Hi Monica. I hope you are doing well and things have calmed down.

I was wondering if it were possible for you to have a 15 minute meeting with

Gary Shiffman from my firm. Gary worked for Sen. [REDACTED] and is trying to help someone on a State Department issue. Please let me know. He will work around your schedule.

Thanks!

Tony

Tony Rudy

Greenberg Traurig

800 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 500

Washington, DC 20006

HOGR003-00544

(202) [REDACTED]

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:rudy@gtlaw.com (rudy@gtlaw.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:11-JUN-2001 15:50:23.00

SUBJECT::

TO:Monica V. Kladakis (CN=Monica V. Kladakis/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

According to a friend at House Resources, Stayman is a term appointment and his current term ends June 23. If not renewed, that would be it for Al.

Any news?

Tony Rudy

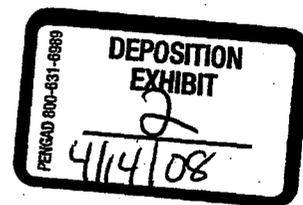
Greenberg Traurig

800 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 500

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 33



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HOGR003-00642

email to postmaster@gtlaw.com.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:Monica V. Kladakis (CN=Monica V. Kladakis/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

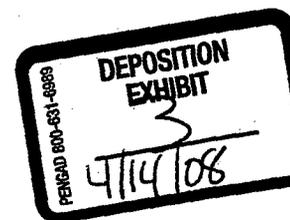
CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-2001 18:53:59.00

SUBJECT:: Re:

TO:Matthew A. Schlapp (CN=Matthew A. Schlapp/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I just got off the phone with Doug -- he's got a couple of things to look into for me but it looks good. Talk to you tomorrow -- Monica



Matthew A. Schlapp

06/18/2001 06:39:34 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Monica V. Kladakis/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re:

yup. Let me know if I need to call Kay James or Doug.

Monica V. Kladakis

06/18/2001 06:09:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re:

I asked Doug Fehrer for some help on this about a week ago -- I need to know if Stayman is a career or a political appointee and unfortunately, Doug has not returned any of my calls since we first spoke. I think we can do something about it, but I'm trying to figure out what is the best way to go about it. I don't want a firing scandal on our hands.

Matthew A. Schlapp

06/18/2001 05:47:19 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Monica V. Kladakis/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

how do we fix this?

----- Forwarded by Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP on

06/18/2001 05:47 PM -----

HOGR003-0391:

rudyt@gtlaw.com

06/18/2001 05:16:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject:

Hope things are well. I don't know if you remember this but we spoke about it a few months ago. There is a Clintonista and [REDACTED] donor who is a political appointee of Albright. He is scheduled to be renewed on the 23rd of this month unless action is taken. He ran a partisan operation at the department of interior which the auditor general called the worst violation of the hatch act he had seen in 25 years. All his actions were targeted against House Republicans.

Is there anyway you can weigh in with presidential personnel? Monica Kladakis knows about the problem.

His name is Allen Stayman.

Thanks.

Tony

Tony Rudy

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Matthew A. Schlapp (CN=Matthew A. Schlapp/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

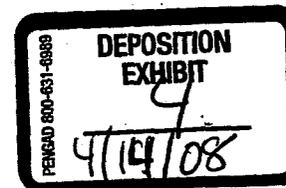
CREATION DATE/TIME: 20-JUN-2001 12:29:47.00

SUBJECT: Re: Stayman

TO: Monica V. Kladakis (CN=Monica V. Kladakis/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

oh yes; you guys had a hell of a team back then. Lots of smart folks who also did not have the ego problem.



Monica V. Kladakis

06/20/2001 12:23:06 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: Stayman

Yes, as I said in the e-mail, I'll call Tony (did you know he and I worked together in the whip's office?)

Matthew A. Schlapp

06/20/2001 12:21:45 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Monica V. Kladakis/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: Stayman

will you let Tony know for me as well? He has talked to me about it a few times.

Monica V. Kladakis

06/20/2001 12:20:31 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: Stayman

Matt -- Good news -- State is going to inform Al Stayman that his term is not going to be extended, so as of June 30 he will be gone. I will let Tony Rudy know. FYI -- Sen. [REDACTED] supported keeping him on (don't know why), but Cong. [REDACTED] and many other House Republicans had serious problems with him. Bottom line is he was a senior Clinton

1450000

appointee and it is a new Administration and we want to appoint our own person.

Monica

Matthew A. Schlapp

06/18/2001 05:47:19 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Monica V. Kladakis/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

how do we fix this?

----- Forwarded by Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP on

06/18/2001 05:47 PM -----

rudyt@gtlaw.com

06/18/2001 05:16:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject:

Hope things are well. I don't know if you remember this but we spoke about it a few months ago. There is a Clintonista and [REDACTED] donor who is a political appointee of Albright. He is scheduled to be renewed on the 23rd of this month unless action is taken. He ran a partisan operation at the department of interior which the auditor general called the worst violation of the hatch act he had seen in 25 years. All his actions were targeted against House Republicans.

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His name is Allen Stayman.

Thanks.

Tony

Tony Rudy

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Monica V. Kladakis (CN=Monica V. Kladakis/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 29-JUN-2001 18:04:03.00

SUBJECT:: Re: Stayman

TO: Susan B. Ralston (CN=Susan B. Ralston/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ: UNKNOWN

CC: matthew a. schlapp (CN=matthew a. schlapp/OU=who/O=eop@eop [WHO])
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Susan -- Assistant Secretary Jim Kelly, who oversees Stayman, felt strongly that he could not afford a vacancy in that post because negotiations are ongoing (including next week). He initially asked for a 6 month extension but we agreed to only a 4-month extension to give us time to find a replacement and get the clearances done (which take an average of 90 days.)

Matt and I will talk Monday and figure out what else to do.

Monica

Susan B. Ralston

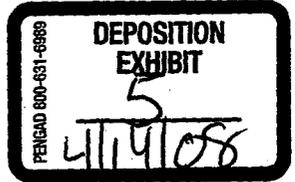
06/29/2001 05:11:51 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP@EOP, Monica V. Kladakis/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Stayman



[REDACTED], Counsel for the [REDACTED] Committee, called to say that Rep. [REDACTED] is really upset about Stayman at State. He said that [REDACTED] personally wrote a letter to Powell about this and that [REDACTED] sent evidence to Peggy Cifrino (Powell's assistant) 6 weeks ago about Stayman's previous illegal activities and smear campaigns against House Republican Leaders.

[REDACTED] is amazed to now hear that this has not been taken care of and he wants to know what he needs to do to fix this. I told [REDACTED] we were working on it. He said he's going to call me back on Monday to find out the status.

Please help.